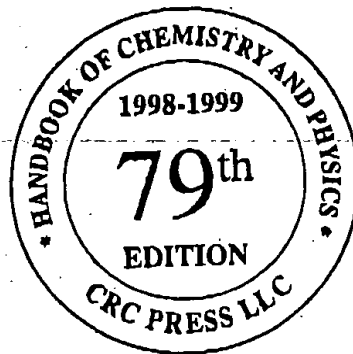


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# CLASSIFICATION OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION

Hans Dolezalek

Basic Conversions:  $c = \lambda \nu = v/k$ ;  $\nu = c/\lambda = ck$ ;  $\lambda = c/\nu = 1/k$ ;  $k = \nu/c = 1/\lambda$   
 $c = \text{speed of light} = 2.99792458 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

Frequency ( $\nu$ )	Wavelength ( $\lambda$ )	Wave number ( $k$ )	Name of bands	Approximate photon energies
$3 \times 10^0 - 3 \times 10^1 \text{ Hz}$ $3 - 30 \text{ Hz}$	$10^8 - 10^7 \text{ m}$ $100 - 10 \text{ Mm}$	$10^{-8} - 10^{-1} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ Gm}^{-1}$	ELF (ELF 1), ITU band no. 1	
$3 \times 10^1 - 3 \times 10^2 \text{ Hz}$ $30 - 300 \text{ Hz}$	$10^7 - 10^6 \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ Mm}$	$10^{-7} - 10^{-6} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $100 \text{ Gm}^{-1} - 1 \text{ Mm}^{-1}$	SLF (ELF 2), ITU band no. 2, mega- meter waves	
$3 \times 10^2 - 3 \times 10^3 \text{ Hz}$ $300 \text{ Hz} - 3 \text{ kHz}$	$10^6 - 10^5 \text{ m}$ $1 \text{ Mm} - 100 \text{ km}$	$10^{-6} - 10^{-5} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ km}^{-1}$	ULF (ELF 3), ITU band no. 3	
$3 \times 10^3 - 3 \times 10^4 \text{ Hz}$ $3 - 30 \text{ kHz}$	$10^5 - 10^4 \text{ m}$ $100 - 10 \text{ km}$	$10^{-5} - 10^{-4} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ km}^{-1}$	VLF, ITU band no. 4, myriameter waves	
$3 \times 10^4 - 3 \times 10^5 \text{ Hz}$ $30 - 300 \text{ kHz}$	$10^4 - 10^3 \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ km}$	$10^{-4} - 10^{-3} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $100 \text{ km}^{-1} - 1 \text{ km}^{-1}$	LF, ITU band no. 5, kilometer waves	
$3 \times 10^5 - 3 \times 10^6 \text{ Hz}$ $300 \text{ kHz} - 3 \text{ MHz}$	$10^3 - 10^2 \text{ m}$ $1 \text{ km} - 100 \text{ m}$	$10^{-3} - 10^{-2} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ km}^{-1}$	MF, ITU band no. 6, hectometer waves	
$3 \times 10^6 - 3 \times 10^7 \text{ Hz}$ $3 - 30 \text{ MHz}$	$10^2 - 10^1 \text{ m}$ $100 - 10 \text{ m}$	$10^{-2} - 10^{-1} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ km}^{-1}$	HF, ITU band no. 7, decimeter waves	
$3 \times 10^7 - 3 \times 10^8 \text{ Hz}$ $30 - 300 \text{ MHz}$	$10^1 - 10^0 \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ m}$	$10^{-1} - 10^0 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $100 \text{ km}^{-1} - 1 \text{ m}^{-1}$	VHF, ITU band no. 8, meter waves	
$3 \times 10^8 - 3 \times 10^9 \text{ Hz}$ $300 \text{ MHz} - 3 \text{ GHz}$	$10^0 - 10^{-1} \text{ m}$ $1 \text{ m} - 100 \text{ mm}$	$10^0 - 10^1 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ m}^{-1}$	UHF, ITU band no. 9, decimeter waves	
$3 \times 10^9 - 3 \times 10^{10} \text{ Hz}$ $3 - 30 \text{ GHz}$	$10^{-1} - 10^{-2} \text{ m}$ $100 - 10 \text{ mm}$	$10^1 - 10^2 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ m}^{-1}$	SHF, ITU band no. 10, centimeter waves	
$3 \times 10^{10} - 3 \times 10^{11} \text{ Hz}$ $30 - 300 \text{ GHz}$	$10^{-2} - 10^{-3} \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ mm}$	$10^2 - 10^3 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $100 \text{ m}^{-1} - 1 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ( $1 - 10 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )	EHF, ITU band no. 11, millimeter waves	
$3 \times 10^{11} - 3 \times 10^{12} \text{ Hz}$ $300 \text{ GHz} - 3 \text{ THz}$	$10^{-3} - 10^{-4} \text{ m}$ $1 \text{ mm} - 100 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$10^3 - 10^4 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ( $10 - 100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )	Part of micrometer waves, includes part of far or thermal infrared; ITU band no. 12	
$3 \times 10^{12} - 3 \times 10^{13} \text{ Hz}$ $3 - 30 \text{ THz}$	$10^{-4} - 10^{-5} \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ( $100,000 - 10,000 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^4 - 10^5 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ( $100 - 1000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )	Part of micrometer waves includes part of far (thermal) infrared	
$3 \times 10^{13} - 3 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$ $30 - 300 \text{ THz}$	$10^{-5} - 10^{-6} \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ( $10,000 - 1000 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^5 - 10^6 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}^{-1}$	Part of $\mu\text{m}$ waves, part of infrared	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-20} \text{ joule}$ ( $0.1 - 1 \text{ eV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{14} - 3 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}$ $300 \text{ THz} - 3 \text{ PHz}$	$10^{-6} - 10^{-7} \text{ m}$ $1 \text{ }\mu\text{m} - 100 \text{ nm}$ ( $10,000 - 1000 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^6 - 10^7 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}^{-1}$	Near infrared, visible, near ultraviolet	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-19} \text{ joule}$ ( $1 - 10 \text{ eV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{15} - 3 \times 10^{16} \text{ Hz}$ $3 - 30 \text{ PHz}$	$10^{-7} - 10^{-8} \text{ m}$ $100 - 10 \text{ nm}$ ( $1000 - 100 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^7 - 10^8 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ }\mu\text{m}^{-1}$	Part of "vacuum" - ultraviolet	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-18} \text{ joule}$ ( $10 - 100 \text{ eV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{16} - 3 \times 10^{17} \text{ Hz}$ $30 - 300 \text{ PHz}$	$10^{-8} - 10^{-9} \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ nm}$ ( $100 - 10 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^8 - 10^9 \text{ m}^{-1}$ $100 \text{ }\mu\text{m}^{-1} - 1 \text{ nm}^{-1}$	Part of soft X-rays	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-17} \text{ joule}$ ( $100 - 1000 \text{ eV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{17} - 3 \times 10^{18} \text{ Hz}$ $300 \text{ PHz} - 3 \text{ EHz}$	$10^{-9} - 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ $1 \text{ nm} - 100 \text{ pm}$ ( $10 - 1 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^9 - 10^{10} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ nm}^{-1}$	Part of soft X-rays	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-16} \text{ joule}$ ( $1 - 10 \text{ keV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{18} - 3 \times 10^{19} \text{ Hz}$ $3 - 30 \text{ EHz}$	$10^{-10} - 10^{-11} \text{ m}$ $100 - 10 \text{ pm}$ ( $1 - 0.1 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^{10} - 10^{11} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ nm}^{-1}$	Hard X-rays and part of soft $\gamma$ -rays	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-15} \text{ joule}$ ( $10 - 100 \text{ keV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{19} - 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ Hz}$ $30 - 300 \text{ EHz}$	$10^{-11} - 10^{-12} \text{ m}$ $10 - 1 \text{ pm}$ ( $0.1 - 0.01 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^{11} - 10^{12} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $100 \text{ nm}^{-1} - 1 \text{ pm}^{-1}$	Part of soft and part of hard $\gamma$ -rays (limits at $510 \text{ keV}$ )	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-14} \text{ joule}$ ( $100 \text{ keV} - 1 \text{ MeV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{20} - 3 \times 10^{21} \text{ Hz}$ $300 - 3000 \text{ EHz}$	$10^{-12} - 10^{-13} \text{ m}$ $1 \text{ pm} - 100 \text{ fm}$ ( $0.01 - 0.001 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^{12} - 10^{13} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $1 - 10 \text{ pm}^{-1}$	Part of hard $\gamma$ -rays and part of "cosmic" $\gamma$ -rays	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-13} \text{ joule}$ ( $1 - 10 \text{ MeV}$ )
$3 \times 10^{21} - 3 \times 10^{22} \text{ Hz}$ $3000 - 30,000 \text{ EHz}$	$10^{-13} - 10^{-14} \text{ m}$ $100 - 10 \text{ fm}$ ( $0.001 - 0.0001 \text{ }\text{\AA}$ )	$10^{13} - 10^{14} \text{ m}^{-1}$ $10 - 100 \text{ pm}^{-1}$	$\gamma$ -rays produced by cosmic rays	$(1.6-16) \times 10^{-12} \text{ joule}$ ( $10 - 100 \text{ MeV}$ )

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## CLASSIFICATION OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION (continued)

Abbreviations used in this table: Å—Angstrom ( $1 \text{ Å} = 10^{-10} \text{ m}$ ); EH—exahertz ( $10^{18} \text{ hertz}$ ); EHF—extremely high frequency; ELF—extremely low frequency; eV—electron volt ( $1 \text{ eV} = 1.60219 \times 10^{-19} \text{ joule}$ ); PHz—petahertz ( $10^{15} \text{ hertz}$ ); fm—fermiometer ( $10^{-15} \text{ m}$ ); GHz—gigahertz ( $10^9 \text{ hertz}$ ); Gm—gigameter ( $10^9 \text{ m}$ ); HF—high frequency; Hz—hertz ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ ); ITU—International Telecommunications Union; keV—kiloelectron volt ( $10^3 \text{ eV}$ ); km—kilometer ( $10^3 \text{ m}$ ); LF—low frequency; m—meter; MeV—megaelectron volt ( $10^6 \text{ eV}$ ); MF—medium frequency; MHz—megahertz ( $10^6 \text{ hertz}$ ); Mm—megameter ( $10^6 \text{ meter}$ ); mm—millimeter ( $10^{-3} \text{ meter}$ );  $\mu\text{m}$ —micrometer ( $10^{-6} \text{ meter}$ ); nm—nanometer ( $10^{-9} \text{ meter}$ ); pm—picometer ( $10^{-12} \text{ meter}$ ); SHF—super high frequency; SLF—super low frequency; THz—terahertz; UHF—ultra high frequency; ULF—ultra low frequency; VHF—very high frequency; VLF—very low frequency.

Also called "microwaves"; not to be confused with "micrometer waves".

### LETTER DESIGNATIONS OF MICROWAVE BANDS

Frequency (GHz)	Wavelength (cm)	Wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Band
1—2	30—15	0.033—0.067	L-Band
1—4	15—7.5	0.067—0.133	S-Band
4—8	7.5—3.7	0.133—0.267	C-Band
8—12	3.7—2.5	0.267—0.4	X-Band
12—18	2.5—1.7	0.4—0.6	Ku-Band
18—27	1.7—1.1	0.6—0.9	K-Band
27—40	1.1—0.75	0.9—1.33	Ka-Band

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